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Sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Raymond **Landveld** (Suriname)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 19 (see A/66/440, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 34th and 36th meetings, on 10 and 22 November 2011. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/66/SR.34 and 36).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/66/L.28 and A/C.2/66/L.58

2. At the 34th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" (A/C.2/66/L.28), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009 and 65/159 of 20 December 2010 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,
>
> "*Recalling also* the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol thereto,

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in 11 parts, under the symbol A/66/440 and Add.1-10.

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"*Recalling further* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007 and the outcomes of all previous sessions, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcomes of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, adopted on 13 May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey, and the road map for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

"*Reaffirming* its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

"*Reaffirming also* the financial obligations of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II to the Convention under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

"1. *Takes note* of the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Mexico from 29 November to 10 December 2010;

"2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference, Cancun, Mexico, 2010, and its follow-up;

"3. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 4 to 6 June 2012;

"4. *Underscores* the importance of an agreed, comprehensive and balanced outcome through the ongoing negotiations under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol;

"5. *Notes with appreciation* that the Government of South Africa will host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011;

"6. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

"7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind'."

3. At its 36th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" (A/C.2/66/L.58), submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.28.

4. At the same meeting, upon the proposal of the Chair, the Committee agreed to waive the relevant provision of rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and proceed to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.58.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.58.

6. Also at its 36th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America (see A/C.2/66/SR.36).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.58 (see para. 9).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.58, draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.28 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009 and 65/159 of 21 December 2010 and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Recalling also the principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

Recalling further the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[4] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] the outcome of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and of the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007,[6] and the outcomes of all the sessions, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] the Mauritius Declaration[8] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[9] and the Istanbul Programme of Action adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,[10] held in May 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey,

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

[6] FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2007/9/Add.1 and 2.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (United Nations publication, Sales No. 11.II.A.1), chap. II.

prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

Reaffirming also the financial obligations of developed country parties and other developed parties included in annex II to the Convention under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol,

1. *Recalls* the outcome of the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted in Cancun, Mexico, by the Government of Mexico from 29 November to 10 December 2010;[11]

2. *Recognizes* the need to build on the existing political momentum with a view to further advancing climate change negotiations;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference and its follow-up;[12]

4. *Underlines* the importance of achieving an ambitious, substantive, holistic and balanced outcome through the ongoing negotiations at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

5. *Notes with appreciation* that the Government of South Africa will host the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol in Durban from 28 November to 9 December 2011;

6. *Notes* the ongoing preparatory process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

7. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind".

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[11] FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1 and 2 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2010/12/Add.1 and 2.

[12] A/66/291, sect. I.